



## RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park  
Providence, RI 02908

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### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** June 10, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Minutes recorded by:** Jake Camara

**Minutes approved on:** July 15, 2008

**Interpreters:** Carol Fay, Jon Henry, and Maureen McEntee

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Pro Tempore Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:04PM in the RI School for the Deaf Cohen Room.

#### **II. Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- a. **In Attendance:** Mary Bird, Kathleen Ellis, Neil Leahey, Mary Wambach, Travis Zellner
- b. **Excused:** Carol Dorros, Jennifer Milone

#### **III. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2)**

- a. **MOVED (Trustee Wambach) AND SECONDED (Trustee Leahey):** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 6:05PM. Approved unanimously.
- b. **MOVED (Trustee Bird) AND SECONDED (Trustee Wambach):** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:01PM. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED (Trustee Bird) AND SECONDED (Trustee Wambach):** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.
- d. **Motions from Executive Session**
  - i. **MOVED (Trustee Wambach) AND SECONDED (Trustee Bird):** To recommend Richard Dickson to RIDE to be appointed to

the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees. Approved unanimously.

- ii. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner informed the public that a motion from the February meeting to recognize John Plante at graduation was out of order according to the Open Meetings Act. However, the Board would still like to recognize John Plante.

#### **IV. New Business**

- a. Employee Recall
  - i. Ms. Dunsmore stated that the school's two Teacher Assistants would be asked to come back for the next academic year.
  - ii. **MOVED (Trustee Wambach) AND SECONDED (Trustee Leahey):** That the Board approves the recall of two teacher aides for next year. Approved unanimously.

#### **V. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- a. Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

- a. A teacher, Toby Liebowitz, informed the Board that she is a Special Educator at the school and is on the termination list. She read a portion of the Commissioner's Report, which she stated applied to her personally as a Special Educator.
- b. Outreach Coordinator John Carty shared his concern that the school may not seriously be considering the Outreach program for next academic year. He stressed the need for the services and their impact on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in the State of Rhode Island.
  - i. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner thanked Mr. Carty for his comments and stated that the Policy committee would certainly be considering them.
- c. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner covered the recent consolidation in state government involving RI CDHH. As of today the RI CDHH will not be consolidated – they will remain independent.

#### **VII. Reports**

- a. **Director**

- i. Ms. Dunsmore covered recent and upcoming events at the school, student activities and administrative issues.
- ii. Ms. Dunsmore discussed the PBGR, the Commissioner's Report, the School Improvement Plan, CEASD accreditation and changes to the IEP forms.
- iii. Ms. Dunsmore discussed the upcoming graduation and the process for interviewing an Assistant Director.
- iv. Discussion took place regarding the Assistant Director position and the Commissioner's Report.

**b. Sub-Committees**

- i. Policy
  - 1. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner discussed the recent meeting of the Policy Committee.
  - 2. Communication Protocols within the Board of Trustees will be discussed during the retreat and orientation.
  - 3. The committee has set some goals and some timelines for implementing protocols when they have been finalized.
- ii. Building
  - 1. Assistant Director Wayne Hannon informed the Board as to recent events in the building process.
  - 2. Discussion took place regarding the timeline of the building process.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Cochlear Implant Center
  - i. Pro Tempore Chairperson Zellner covered the recent events regarding a group studying how to form a Cochlear Implant Center.
  - ii. He discussed the possibility the Board looking into forming a Cochlear Implant Center at the school.
  - iii. Discussion took place regarding public relations.

**IX. Public Comment**

- a. Family Guidance/Preschool Coordinator Lena Greene shared her concern regarding parents' feelings about a Cochlear Implant Center.

- b. Discussion took place regarding forming a “Parent Interest” committee involving parents and faculty members.
  - i. Transition Coordinator Cheryl Hollingworth shared an idea regarding a business strategy called “Plus Delta” where only positive ideas are allowed.
- c. Discussion took place regarding the current state of committees.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.